GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1041
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Permission for Fishing in Exclusive Economic Zone
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE ???? ?? ????? ?????? ??????
be pleased to state:
(a) whether the Government is considering to prevent foreign vessels from catching fish in the country's deep-sea region, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(b) whether the Government has taken any measures to put an end to LoP (Letter of Permit) regime in fishing:
(c) if not, the reasons therefor;
(d) whether the Government would take measures to provide exclusive shipping licence to local fishermen for fishing activities in exclusive economic zones; and
(e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to protect the fishermen of the country?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)
(a) According to the extant policy of the Government, foreign vessels are not allowed to fish in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone. Any foreign vessel if found engaged in illegal fishing in Indian waters is apprehended by the Indian Coast Guard and appropriate action is taken against it as per the provisions of the Maritime Zone of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981.

(b) & (c) The Letters of Permission (LOP) are issued to Indian citizens, entrepreneur or partnership firm and private limited company in accordance with the Guidelines for conduct of fishing operation in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone. A decision regarding rescinding the extant Guidelines on the LOP regime has not been taken.

(d) Shipping licence to fishermen for fishing activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone is not issued. However, according to the extant Guidelines for deep sea fishing, any Indian citizen, entrepreneur or partnership firm may apply for Letter of Permission (LOP) for fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

(e) To protect the fishermen of the country several measures exists including provisions to distribute sea-safety kits to fishermen and Group Accident Insurance for active fishermen. Besides, provisions for housing, basic facilities like drinking water, community hall and financial assistance under 'saving-cum-relief' component are also provided under the Central Sector Scheme 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries'.